

MDDC Meeting Minutes
March 3, 2015
MDDC, 100 Hancock St., 1st Floor Conference Room
Quincy, MA 02171

Present: Matthew Bander, Kate Bartlett, Bethany Brown, Sabrina Cazeau-Class, Julie Fitzpatrick, Gail Grossman, Naomi Goldberg, Phillip Harrison, William Kiernan, Tim Kunzier, Emily Korkaris, Erik Nordahl, Kate Ryan, Caroline vanBruinswaardt

Excused: Briana Bevins, Lydia Brown, Lisa Ching, Hillary Dunn, Suzanne Gottlieb, Cyndy Miller, Irving Sacks

Absent: William Conley, Christine Griffin, Crystal Hebert, Henry Milorin, Marie Narvaez, Debbie Pierce, Robert Smith, Donald Washington

Guests: John Bento, Cathy Boyle, Carol Dumas, Christina Kalafatis, Jan Tobin

Staff: Faith Behum, Kristin Britton, Adelia DelTrecco, Liz Fancher, Craig Hall, Cathy Jackson, Harold Lieberman, Donna Patterson, Dan Shannon

1. Acceptance of Agenda:

Motion to accept (as amended) passed unanimously.

First: Mathew Bander Second: Kate Bartlett

2. Approval of October Meeting Minutes

Amendments: Correct spelling of Craig Hall's name in the minutes.

Motion to accept (as amended) passed unanimously.

First: Kate Bartlett Second: Tim Kunzier

3. Election of New Officers

Nomination for the position of Council Secretary: Caroline vanBruinswaardt

Nomination for the position of Council Vice-Chairperson: Tim Kunzier

Motion to elect the new officers passed unanimously.

First: Kate Ryan Second: William Kiernan

4. Council Update (Julie Fitzpatrick, Chairperson)

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 9th. Once the date is confirmed, a notice will be sent out.

Budget: There has been a \$17,000 decrease in the budget for this year; Dan Shannon has asked for NACDD to verify with AIDD that the figures are correct as it appears that the Hold Harmless clause of the DD Act was not applied. Dan will update the members at a future time.

Membership Directory: Please check for accuracy of information.

Elections: By-laws were amended at the last meeting and the next election cycle will begin in June; Currently elected positions will be retroactive back to October 1, 2014, with those elected in June to serve two years; The Chair at Large nomination is open until the end of April.

Materials in packets include:

Membership Directory; Quarterly Council Report; Public Policy Team report; MDDC Policy Priorities 2015-2016 Legislative Session; MDDC Project Activity Reports 2014-10-01 through 2014-12-31; MDDC By-laws; Autism Housing Pathways presentation; MDDC Cover Letter and Easter Seals Youth Leadership Forum flyer; Planning Accessible Meetings and Conferences Checklist and Guide; Ways2Go Travel Training brochure; Massachusetts Lifespan Respite Coalition (CARE) Conference Flyer; MDDC 2014 Annual Report to the Citizens of Massachusetts; Commonly used Acronym List; MDDC Communication Guideline Questionnaire.

5. Membership Committee Report (Caroline vanBruinswaardt, Secretary)

There is nothing new to report this period.

6. Public Policy Report (Kristin Britton, Faith Behum, Liz Fancher)

New Legislator Orientation - The New Legislators Orientation was held on January 13, 2015 at the State House in the Members' Lounge. The program consisted of MA Families Organizing for Change, MASS Advocates Standing Strong, the Arc of MA, and the Council talking about our respective organizations. A self-advocate and his mother told their story about their experiences with self-direction, along with legislators, Senator L'Italien and Representative Garballey who also spoke.

MDDC Bill Sharing - The bi-annual bill sharing was held on Friday, February 13, 2015. 22 bills were presented; 11 organizations were present; 8 organizations presented information to the present Council Members and Staff. Aides to Senator L'Italien and Senator Barrett also presented. David D'Arcangelo, the new Director of the MA Office on Disability, also introduced himself to the group.

Policy Priorities - All bills were to be filed by Friday, January 16, 2015. The Policy staff worked to reduce the considered bills from 150 to 25. The full Council was invited to the Policy selection meeting held on Wednesday, February 25, 2015, where 11 bills were selected. Erik Nordahl provided a summary of the process and how Council members selected the 2015-2016 policy priorities. The final list of policy priorities was distributed to members. Please read and call Policy staff with any comments within the week.

Council Policy Team - Kristin will be sending out a poll to determine the best times to meet. Please see Council Policy Team expectations in the Public Policy Packet in the folders.

37th Annual Legislation Reception - This year's reception will be held, Monday March 9, 2015 at the Great Hall in the State House. The awardees are: Representative Sean Garballey receiving

the Council's Legislator Award and Senator John Keenan receiving the Arc of Massachusetts's Legislative Award.

7. SALS Update (Donna Patterson)

Highlights included: Updates on the Students in Transition Program; the Western Massachusetts team, Metro team, SALS for Youth in Transition; Request from a group in South Carolina to receive training in SALS.

8. Annual Report to the Citizens (Craig Hall)

An Award of Excellence from the Association of Government Accountants was presented by Craig Hall to the Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council.

9. Grantee Presentation (Cathy Boyle, Autism Housing Pathways)

Cathy Boyle conducted a presentation about her council grant to establish innovative housing solutions for families who have children with autism and other developmental disabilities. There is a need for public/family education on zoning regulations and economic issues. The training tools have been made available online at www.autismhousingpathways.net.

10. Other Business (Communication Guidelines Questionnaire)

Changes to the February meeting: Discussion was to eliminate the February meeting due to the frequency of inclement weather. Dan noted that the By-Laws determine the meeting frequency, which currently requires meeting in February. There may be a way to amend the by-laws to avoid February and still meet the requirements. The topic was tabled until the June meeting.

11. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn passed unanimously

First: Matthew Bander Second: Kate Bartlett

Time: 8:12



Review/Approved
Caroline vanBruinswaardt, Secretary

6/8/15

Date



Daniel M. Shannon, Executive Director

6/8/15

Date